

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
INRE-00 ACDE-00 DOEE-00 /026 W  
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O 241921Z FEB 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6454  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02996

EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O.11652:XGDS-3  
TAGS: PARM US UK UR  
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC

CTB MESSAGE NO.149

1. TRILATERAL SUBGROUP ON INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA  
EXCHANGE MET TWICE DURING WEEK OF FEB 20 TO DISCUSS AND  
CLARIFY APPROACHES TAKEN IN US AND SOVIET ILLUSTRATIVE  
TEXTS OF MULTILATERAL TREATY ANNEX ON AN INTERNATIONAL  
EXCHANGE OF SEISMIC DATA. FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS  
OF THOSE TWO MEETINGS.

2. ALL THREE DELS ARE IN AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL FRAME-  
WORK FOR APPROACHING THE DATA EXCHANGE. ALL BELIEVE THAT  
THE GUIDELINES TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNEX SHOULD BE OF A  
BROAD AND NON-TECHNICAL CHARACTER, AND THAT AFTER ENTRY  
INTO FORCE OF THE TREATY, A MULTILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION  
BODY SHOULD WORK OUT THE DETAILED OPERATIONAL ARRANGE-  
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MENTS BASED ON THOSE GUIDELINES. ALTHOUGH WE FEEL THE  
IMPLEMENTATION BODY SHOULD BE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION (WHICH WOULD BE  
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE MULTILATERAL TREATY), AND THE  
SOVIETS FAVOR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ESTABLISHED  
ONLY FOR THE DATA EXCHANGE, THERE IS AGREEMENT THAT THIS  
ISSUE CAN BE PUT OFF UNTIL LATER, AND ALL SIDES IN THE

SUBGROUP HAVE REFERRED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION BODY AS  
SIMPLY "THE APPROPRIATE BODY".

3. BOTH THE SOVIETS AND BRITISH QUESTIONED THE MEANING  
OF THE SENTENCE IN PARA 1(B) OF OUR WORKING PAPER IN WHICH

WE STATE THAT "ANY ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING  
CIRCULATION OF THE DATA WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE ICC."  
WHEN US DEL EXPLAINED THAT ICC MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE  
SEISMIC DATA TO NON-PARTIES, SOVIET AND BRITISH DELS EX-  
PRESSED STRONG DOUBTS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH  
WIDER CIRCULATION. SOVIET DELOFF STATED VIGOROUSLY THAT WE  
SHOULD NOT LET NON-PARTIES GET INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENT-  
ATION OF OUR TREATY. US DELOFFS POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD  
NO INTENTION OF LETTING NON-PARTIES DETERMINE HOW CTB  
WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. INSTEAD, WE SIMPLY WISHED TO GIVE  
IMPLEMENTATION BODY THE AUTHORITY, IF IT APPEARED DESIR-  
ABLE IN CERTAIN CASES, TO MAKE DATA AVAILABLE TO STATES  
OR PERHAPS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WERE NOT  
TREATY PARTIES.

4. REFERRING TO PARA 1(C) OF US PAPER, WHICH STATES THAT  
SEISMIC FACILITIES OFFERED BY TREATY PARTIES WOULD BE  
INCLUDED IN THE EXCHANGE UPON ACCEPTANCE BY THE ICC,  
SOVIET DELOFF SAID THAT ALL TREATY PARTIES SHOULD HAVE THE  
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RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DATA EXCHANGE EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT  
TECHNICALLY SOPHISTICATED. US DELOFFS RESPONDED THAT WE  
DID NOT HAVE IN MIND DISCOURAGING ANY TREATY PARTY FROM  
PARTICIPATING IN THE EXCHANGE. WE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT  
THE IMPLEMENTATION BODY, WHICH WOULD BE MULTILATERAL IN  
CHARACTER, SHOULD ESTABLISH CERTAIN MINIMAL STANDARDS  
THAT PARTICIPATING STATIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET.  
THESE MINIMAL STANDARDS WOULD NOT BE BEYOND THE TECHNICAL  
CAPACITY OF EVEN SOME OF THE LEAST TECHNICALLY ADVANCED  
PARTIES (E.G. 24 HOUR PER DAY OPERATION OF THE STATIONS),  
AND WOULD THEREFORE NOT SERVE AS A DISCRIMINATORY BARRIER  
TO PARTICIPATION. THEIR FUNCTION WOULD BE TO INSURE SOME  
MINIMAL LEVEL OF UNIFORMITY IN THE DATA EXCHANGED, AND  
THUS TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM. SOVIET  
DEL READILY AGREED WITH THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING MINIMAL  
STANDARDS, BUT TOOK THE VIEW THAT THESE STANDARDS SHOULD  
BE EXPRESSED AS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PARTICIPATING  
STATES, RATHER THAN AS MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS. (COMMENT:  
FROM SEVERAL INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS, IT APPEARS THAT THE  
SOVIET PREFERENCE FOR EXPRESSING STANDARDS AS RECOMMEN-  
ATIONS IS BASED ON THEIR DOCTRINAL CONCERN THAT THE  
INTERNATIONAL DATA CENTER THAT THE SOVIETS WANT STATIONED

IN MOSCOW, AS WELL AS SEISMIC STATIONS ON SOVIET TERRITORY, COULD BE SUBJECTED TO MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS SET BY SOME INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY, RATHER THAN LEFT COMPLETELY TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE USSR. END COMMENT).

5. SOV DEL HAS MAINTAINED THAT INTERNATIONAL DATA CENTERS SHOULD BE SITUATED IN MOSCOW, WASHINGTON AND MELBOURNE, ARGUING THAT THOSE THREE LOCATIONS ARE TECHNICALLY

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-----024136 241947Z /45

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FM USMISSION GENEVA  
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JUSTIFIED BECAUSE THEY ARE THE CENTERS FOR THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION'S COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, WHICH WILL SERVE AS THE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR THE SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE. BRITISH AND US DELS HAVE FAVORED LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHERE DATA CENTERS, OTHER THAN THOSE IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, WOULD BE LOCATED. THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT THERE IS NO COMPELLING TECHNICAL REASON FOR CHOOSING MELBOURNE RATHER THAN A NUMBER OF OTHER LOCATIONS, AND THAT THERE ARE GOOD POLITICAL REASONS FOR ENABLING THE CCD OR THE IMPLEMENTATION BODY TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE THIRD OR ADDITIONAL CENTERS. THE SOVIETS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE POLITICAL UTILITY OF LEAVING THIS QUESTION OPEN, AND HAVE STATED THAT THEY ARE FLEXIBLE.

6. ALL THREE DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZE THAT REMAINING DIFFERENCES ON THE DATA EXCHANGE ANNEX TEND TO BE

POLITICAL OR LEGAL IN CHARACTER, AND THEREFORE INTEND TO  
PURSUE THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE POLITICAL GROUP. THERE  
IS ALSO A COMMON UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE DIFFERENCES  
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ARE RELATIVELY MINOR, AND THAT IT WILL NOT BE VERY  
DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A COMMON TEXT. WARNKE

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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